

## **SOUTH ATLANTIC RAILROAD TRACK CONSTRUCTION FROM 1826 TO 1850**

**Click on the name of the state to see  
details**

## South Atlantic Railroads

Written by Paul Marston

Tuesday, 18 March 2008 10:38 - Last Updated Monday, 18 August 2008 21:42

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**STATE**

**1826-30**

**1831-35**

**1835-40**

**1841-45**

**1845-50**

**TOTALS**

**CENSUS**

**CHANGES**

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**Florida**

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**21.00**

**21.00**

**21.00**

## Georgia

**238.76**

**217.96**

**190.50**

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**647.22**

**643.72**

**3.50**

## North Carolina

**2.69**

**267.50**

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**8.78**

**278.97**

**248.50**

**30.47**

**[South Carolina](#)**



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**10.00**

**127.00**

**68.00**

**84.00**

**289.00**

**289.00**

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### Virginia

**69.31**

**242.75**

**136.86**

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**48.76**

**497.68**

**515.15**

**-17.47**

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# **TOTALS FOR INTERVALS**

**10.00**

**199.00**

**770.01**

**431.60**

**323.26**

**1,733.87**

**1,717.37**

**16.50**

**The Census data shown is for the year 1850 as reported in the 1860 Census.**

**See [www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/1860e-06.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/1860e-06.pdf) (pages 230-231).**

**Why are there differences between our figures and the Census Figures?**

**Here is an explanation state by state:**

## **- Georgia:**

**1. Macon and Western Railroad - All of the 102 miles of this railroad was reported under this name, but this railroad only built the last 21 miles of it. It purchased the Monroe Railroad and Banking Company at a foreclosure sale. That railroad built the first 81 miles.**

**2. Memphis Branch  
Railroad and Steamboat  
Company - This was  
the company that built a 20  
mile railroad from Rome,  
Georgia to a connection  
with the Great Western and  
Atlantic Railroad. The 1860  
Census does not show this  
railroad at all for 1850, but  
only for 1860 under the  
name Rome and Kingston  
Railroad. We can find no  
evidence that it was ever**



**called by that name legally although it was referred to by that name locally and during the Civil War. The name was actually changed to Rome Railroad Company of Georgia in 1850 and that was the name it should have been reported under. The 1880 Census corrected this error on page 351 and showed that it was built in 1848.**

### **3. Great Western and**

## Atlantic Railroad (GA)

- As we have explained elsewhere

, 16.5 miles of this railroad was in Tennessee by 1850 leaving only 121.50 for Georgia.

- **North Carolina:**

**1. Greenville and Roanoke Railroad (NC)**  
**- All of the mileage in this railroad was assigned to Virginia as part of the Petersburg Railroad which acquired it in 1855. The 1860 Census says 80 miles for the two railroads**

**combined, but the 1880 Census says there was only 59 miles. It turns out that this railroad was abandoned in 1877 so the 59 mile figure is just for the Petersburg Railroad. What this tells us is that there were 21 miles in this railroad in 1850, but part of it was in Virginia**

**and part was in North Carolina. How much of the 21 miles was in each one? Since the 1880 Census did not list it, there is no state breakout available. Our fall back position is to reconstruct this railroad in Mapinfo™ and determine these figures. The answer is 12.22**

**miles in Virginia and  
8.78 in North Carolina  
so 8.78 miles needs to  
be transferred to North  
Carolina.**

**2. Petersburg  
Railroad (NC) -  
This railroad also  
terminated in North  
Carolina, but this time  
the 1880 Census tells**

**us that there were 2.69  
of the 59 miles needs  
to be transferred from  
Virginia to North  
Carolina.**

**3. Portsmouth and  
Roanoke Railroad  
(NC) - This was  
still another railroad  
that started in**

**Virginia and ended in North Carolina.**

**Once again, the 1880 Census tells us that 19 miles of the 80 mile total need to be transferred to North Carolina.**

## **4. Wilmington**



**and Raleigh**  
**Railroad** - We  
report the 161.50  
miles under this  
name because that  
is who built it.

5. **Wilmington**  
**and Weldon**  
**Railroad** - The

**1860 Census reported that same mileage under this name because that is who owned it in 1860 even though it still had the old name in 1850.**

## - **Virginia:**

1. **Chesterfield  
Railroad** -  
**This was another  
railroad not in the  
1860 Census for**

**the year 1850  
because it was  
abandoned in  
1851 when the  
Richmond and  
Danville Railroad  
reached the  
village of  
Midlothian where**

**the coal fields  
were, but up to  
1851 we need to  
add these 13  
miles to Virginia.**

**2. City Point  
Railroad - We  
report this 10 mile**

**railroad under  
this name  
because that is  
who built it, but  
the 1860 Census  
reported under  
South Side  
Railway because  
that is who**

**owned it in 1860.  
Actually in 1850,  
it was called the  
Appomattox  
Railroad.**

**3. Greenville  
and Roanoke  
Railroad (VA)**

**- Once we deduct the 7.78 miles of this railroad that was in North Carolina from the total of 21 miles, that leaves 12.22 miles still in Virginia.**



**4. Louisa  
Railroad  
Company -  
That is who built  
this 70.07 mile  
railroad, but by  
1860, it was**

**called the Virginia  
Central Railway  
so the Census  
used that name.**

## **5. Petersburg Railroad (VA)**

**-**

**Once we deduct the 2.69 miles of this railroad that was in North Carolina from the total of 80 miles, that leaves 77.31 miles still in Virginia.**

## **6. Portsmouth and Roanoke Railroad (VA)**

**- There are two problems here in that 19 miles were in North Carolina leaving 61 for**

**Virginia and the name was the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad in 1860 which is why the whole 80 were reported under the latter.**

**7. Seaboard  
and Roanoke  
Railroad -  
See above.**

**8. South Side  
Railway - See  
City Point  
Railroad.**

**9. Virginia**  
**Central Railway**  
**- See Louisa**  
**Railroad**  
**Company.**

# 10. Table of Adjustments:



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**+20.00**

**M**

**G**

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**+13.00**

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**C**

**T**

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**+16.50**